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AT'S GOING ON HERE? Pero: Mc Carthy Eugene (S)

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

The Super-Secretive CIA Calls a Press Conference

BY JACK BROOKS

the U.S. government don't like a closely-guarded Soviet secret. TRUMAN KICKED

The cloak came off Thursday when the Central Intelligence Agency called a press conference.

It was limited to 20 handpicked American reporters.

NEW MOVE

But for the spooks in the know nothing. Virginia spy palace to flirt so directly with publicity even in this limited fashion is some-

The state department, in particular, is upset that the CIA dealt directly with news media.

Previously, information gathered by the spy agency came to public notice through either to us, is the key. state or the White House — if it came out at all.

Significantly, many of the statements at the press conference — broadly that the Russian economy is reelingwere contained in a speech in: New York Thursday night by undersecretary of state George Ball.

The CIA also reported that Russia's gold reserves have slumped to less than \$2 billion and the Soviets don't want them to drop further.

scepticism on this point from been publicized its successes Sun Washington Burcau
WASHINGTON—The super
spies appear to have doffed Opinion there was that it their cloaks to keep their daggers sharp.

Sun Washington Burcau
London's financial circles. have received no notice at all. Because of its failures it has been accused of trying to make government policy in the forgers sharp. And other departments of such accurate figures on such eign, military and trade fields.

The Ball speech was prement's own experts.

'NOTHING WRONG'

The state department feels tries were not even told it was the CIA is issuing diplomatic he was disturbed by the way ally unseasoned findings that the agency was diverting from could possibly harm diplomatic its original assignment and bemoves about which the spies coming a policy-making arm.

thing previously unheard of. Once in a while we come future vice-president to Lynacross something like this don Johnson, said: which need not be hidden and licizing it for attribution to ing the roles of president and Congress."

The last phrase, attribution EYE FUTURE

There has already been ed that while its failures have

One of the latest critics is pared after the CIA information president Harry Trution had been seasoned and man who founded the CIA in digested by the state depart- 1947 merely to collect intelligence and report directly to the president.

Last month, Truman said

More recently, Senator Eu-Why did the CIA do it? . | gene McCarthy of Minnesota, Replied a spokesman (natur. professor of history, former ally unnamed): "Why not? intelligence man and possibly

"The CIA is making foreign: there's nothing wrong in pub- policy and in doing so is usurp-

Both men accused the spies The CIA has long complain of making major and danger. ous errors in these attempts at interference.

It could well be that the super-spies have now seen the writing on the wall and fear congressional investigations with a possible curb on their activities.

And to keep the dagger available and sharp they have lifted the cloak a few inches to show the world they succeed sometimes.

MORI/CDF